



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2003

RE: UNITED STATES v. MEGAN ALVERIO

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Megan Alverio, age 33, a resident of Buffalo, New York, pled guilty yesterday in federal court, before the Hon. William Skretny, to one count of adulterating prescription drugs, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 331(k) and 333(a)(2), which carries a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Rogowski, who handled the prosecution of the case against Alverio, the defendant was a registered nurse who, in February of this year, was working in the emergency room at Sheehan Memorial Hospital when she adulterated the Demerol contained in a number of pre-packaged syringes that were to be used to treat patients at the hospital. In pleading guilty, Alverio admitted that on February 18 and 24, 2003, she used another syringe to remove some of the Demerol from the pre-packed syringes and replaced the Demerol with a saline solution, returning the adulterated syringes containing the diluted Demerol to the medical supply cabinet in the emergency room.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation conducted by the United States Food and Drug Administration - Office of Criminal Investigations, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration - Diversion Unit, New York State Bureau of Controlled Substances, Sheehan Memorial Hospital Security, and the Western New York Health Care Fraud Task Force consisting of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, United States Department of Health and Human Services, United States Postal Inspection Service, United States Department of Defense - Criminal Investigation Service, and the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau.

The sentencing in this case is scheduled for October 1, 2003, before Judge Skretny.

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